



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FACILITATE CENTRAL NEBRASKA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EFFORTS TO MARKET 15 COUNTY AREA

Burwell, Neb., Oct. 28, 2004— Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) of Bassett will provide economic development, planning and technical assistance to businesses and communities in their 15 county region thanks to USDA Rural Development grant assistance of \$50,000. USDA presented the District with a symbolic check in celebration of the rural business enterprise grant (RBEG) funds that are anticipated to help to initially create and/or save 15 jobs and provide assistance to at least 5 businesses.

“This is an excellent opportunity for both existing and potential businesses, located in our 15 county area, to have their business information available on line enabling growth and sustainability for the local economy,” stated Heidi Phillips, executive director for the CNEDD.

The District will add \$43,000 to the USDA funds with the North Central RC&D Council and Outback Regional Group each contributing \$5,000, total project cost \$103,000. Monies will bring communities and businesses online through the Location One Information System and the Nebraska Economic Development Information Online System. The systems will help market central Nebraska’s business and community assets, available sites and buildings, expand business opportunities and create quality jobs.

“USDA Rural Development is proud to assist CNEDD with their project which will boost the business economy of the region,” stated Mary Gambill, rural development manager for USDA Rural Development. “Rural businesses need an avenue to promote the valuable services they offer. Left unnoticed, these businesses could have a hard time surviving today’s markets.”

The District serves the counties of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley and Wheeler.

CNEDD was one of 12 Nebraska recipients awarded USDA Rural Development RBEG funds in Fiscal Year 2004 that totaled over \$760,000. The RBEG program facilitates and finances the development of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas by establishing small business revolving loan funds; acquiring land, buildings, and infrastructure to enhance business development; or by providing technical assistance.

For additional information contact Mary Gambill, mary.gambill@ne.usda.gov, 731 E. 4th, Ainsworth, Neb. 69210, (402) 387-2242, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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